A Firewood Forest for Every Town

A GOODLY portion of the people of the United States would eventually be able to laugh at miners' strikes and railway tie-ups if they were to follow the excellent advice of Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Forestry Association. Pack, you know, is the man who has gained an international reputation as a result of everlastingly and eternally talking and writing upon the subject of planting trees. According to the belief of this hustling and exceedingly useful man, no person—man, woman or child—has really commenced living until he has planted a few hundred trees on some highway or in a lot or field.

CHARLES LATHROP PACK

Mr. Pack is strongly urging the municipal authorities of every hamlet, village and town throughout America to immediately secure an adequate-sized piece of land and plant trees on it for the purpose of creating a municipal wood lot which would mature in the not far distant future. He believes that by pursuing this course it would be but a comparatively few years until many homes would be heated largely with the use of wood, using coal only during the severest zero weather of the winter.

Six hundred years ago the town of Zurich, Switzerland, started a municipal wood lot and it has been a good paying proposition through all those hundreds of years and it is still going strong. The area of the Zurich wood lot is 2,840 acres. The annual income to the city from the sale of firewood from this forest is seven dollars an acre.

It was in the year 1309 that the far-seeing citizens of Zurich put this forest under official management, and it has been steadily increasing in value ever since.

Farm owners also ought to adopt a wood lot policy for their own benefit. There is enough waste land on every farm in the country to grow enough trees to furnish stove wood, fence posts and other low grade lumber for all time to come. It might not be a bad idea to have at least one tree-planting day on all farms every year, and everybody should participate in the festivities.

The state of New York has already set a laudable pace in the matter of establishing municipal forests. In 1912 the legislature of that state enacted a law making it possible for counties, towns and villages to acquire through purchase, lease, gift, or condemnation, lands having tree growth or forests on them, or lands that might be suitable for the growing of trees.

It is ardently hoped that a similar measure will be passed by the lawmaking bodies of every state in the Union before another year has passed around.

Tree planting such as outlined above is not only a good thing from an economic viewpoint but it is of incalculable benefit in regulating stream flow, protecting watersheds, providing shelter from wind and storm, and furnishing homes for insect-destroying birds and food game.

The people of the state of New York are in dead earnest in their determination again to make it a commonwealth of beautiful and valuable forests.

Near the little town of Lacona, an enterprising lumber concern has planted more than half a million trees on farms abandoned on account of their lack of fertility. These trees were planted largely under the careful supervision of the New York State College of Forestry. The freshmen from this school are so efficiently organized that 21 of them can plant 35,000 trees in the short space of one week. These young men, in addition to the commissary staff, were organized in three groups of seven each, and one of these seven was elected each day as the leader of the party for that particular day. The other six were divided into mattock men and setters, and the work proceeded so systematically that over 1,000 trees were planted daily by each pair of workers.

Forty-five thousand trees were planted last spring in the publicly-owned forest at Malone, New York.

The children of the public schools of Watertown, New York, set out 10,000 trees, and the children of the Newburg schools followed with 5,000. The New York State Conservation Commission has planted literally millions of trees on state-owned lands.

Why not get the habit?

The Scillies for Sale

THE only reason the Scilly Isles get into the news just now is because the Prince of Wales is going to sell them. And that brings forth the reasonable comment: "I didn't know he owned 'em."

Well, he does, and he is. Who will buy them is another matter, but if anyone would like to purchase a nice sea-front group of islands, 140 in all, now's his opportunity.

How does the Prince of Wales come to own them? With the exception of the eldest son, none of the sovereign's children enjoy any privileges except a pension and the courtesy title of "prince." For example, they are not peers by birth and King George had to raise his second son, Albert, to a dukedom (Duke of York) to give him a seat in the House of Lords. And so far he's scarcely warmed it; Albert doesn't care for statecraft. But the eldest son gets a lot of privileges, and among those which precedent gives him is the duchy of Cornwall and York. The importance of the duchy of Cornwall and York is that it produces revenues; and the Scilly Isles belong to Cornwall, hence to the Duke of Cornwall and York, which is one of the titles (and a profitable one) of the Prince of Wales.

The Prince of Wales has curious ideas about property. Recently he visited his duchy and was shocked to find a lot of slum cottages. He ordered them cleared out, although it was carefully explained to him that they produced steady income, slum or no slum. However, he cut down his income by abolishing them. Now he says he wants to get rid of the Scillies—for cash.

The Scilly Islands are 25 miles west by south of Land's End, which is the southwest tip of England. They are the first glimpse of land afforded the ocean voyager who is making the port of Southampton from America. Of the 140 islands only 40 are distinguishable from mere rocks, and but five of these 40 are inhabited. Altogether they comprise a circuit of 30 miles.

They are granite and sand mostly, with steep cliffs, and treacherous passages between the rocks. Wild fowl abound and while the first impression is discouraging enough it is a fact that, besides the fishing industry, the Scillies produce large crops of potatoes and great quantities of flowers. The latter, narcissi in particular, are shipped to British markets.

The islands passed to an abbey, and a family named Blanchminster shared the government with the abbot in the fourteenth century. This is mentioned because the Blanchminsters used to punish a felony by taking the convicted person to a certain rock in the sea with two barley loaves and one pitcher of water to be left on the rock until drowned by the tide. Incidentally the abbot got all the taxes and returns except wrecks and whales, which were reserved for the Crown.

Latterly, the islands have prospered under judicious government. The five inhabited islands (all of granite as mentioned) are St. Mary's, Tresco, St. Martin's St. Agnes and Bryher. The total population is slightly more than 2,000. Hugh Town in St. Mary's is the capital, occupying a sandy peninsula crowned by the height known as the Garrison, with Star Castle, dating from Elizabethan days. The islands contain all manner of remains of prehistoric monoliths, stone circles, rock basins, and so on. They have also a more gloomy collection, débris from the hundreds of wrecks brought about by the treacherous nature of the waters near by.

Photograph selected for THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT by National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

YOUR OWN UNITED STATES

A feature of Rocky Mountain National Park is its profusion of cliff-cradled, glacier-watered valleys unexcelled for wildness and the glory of their flowers. Here are lily pads growing in snow waters in Wild Basin, whose wealth of lake and precipice still remains unexploited and known to few.